Amateur Radio Newsline™ #1315 – October 25 2002

Amateur Radio Newsline™ report number 1315 with a release date of Friday, October 25 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. A ham radio operator may have played a part in the apprehension of the DC sniper suspects, the U-K says no more new operators in its 5 megs experiment and the ARRL says no to unlicensed visitors sharing a United States ham radio band. These stories are first on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1315 coming your way right now.

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RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO HELPS NAB THE DC SNIPER SUSPECTS

A ham radio operators may have played a role in the apprehension of two men wanted in connection with the sniper shootings in the Washington DC area. ABC News interviewed the trucker who called the police to report he had spotted the two suspects. When asked how he heard about the description of the vehicle, his response was that he heard it while listening to Bozo on WLW radio

Now, Chip Margelli, K7JA tell amateur Radio Newsline that Bozo in real life is Dale Sommers; callsign WB6OM. Sommers hosts a very popular late night trucker's show on the 700 Kilohertz clear channel station. His show is mainly music and information of interest to long-haul truck drivers. The description of the wanted men was just that. As a result the pair are in custody thanks to a trucker who was paying attention to what WB6OM had to say as “Truckin Bozo” over WLW in Cincinnati. (K7JA)

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INTERNATIONAL: NEW PERMITS FOR THE UK 5 MHZ EXPERIMENT GOING ON HOLD

What happens when a propagation experiment gets a bit to popular? If you are a telecommunications regulator in the United Kingdom you might be inclined to temporarily suspended issuing further permits for hams to take part. And that’s what’s about to happen in regard to the United Kingdom’s 5 Megs experiment. From Nottingham England, here’s Jeramy Boot, G4NJH:

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The Radiocommunications Agency says that applications for 5-MHz band experimental Notices of Variation or NoV’s have far exceeded their expectations. The R.A. now considers that the risk of congestion on the five spot frequencies allocated may be detrimental to the overall success of the experiment.

Accordingly, the RA has decided not to issue any further NoV’s for applications received after the 31st of October. The position will be kept under review and occupancy monitoring of the frequencies will be carried out. It is hoped that ollowing this exercise - more NoV’s could be issued, or a numerical limit to the number of NoVs can be set based on usage and congestion. It is likely that an announcement can be made later this year for action early in the new year.

Jeramy Boot, G4NJH.

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The United Kingdom 5 MHz experimental band was made available to that nations individual Full Class A hams by means of a Notice of Variation issued last July. The five 3kHz-wide frequency allocations are permitted for the purposes of antenna and propagation experiments. The Radio Society of Great Britain is in charge of the overall management of the project. (RSGB)

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INTERNATIONAL: AN IARU UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT LARRY PRICE W4RA

Still in the international arena, we have a follow up to last weeks story on the International Amateur Radio Union. With it, here's our producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF:

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We received a very nice note from International Amateur Radio Union President Larry Price, W4RA, following last weeks story about the recent meeting in Morocco. According to President Price, the news isn't the IARU observer status at Plenipotentiary Conferences. He tells Newsline that IARU has had this status since the 1998 Conference in Minneapolis. At that time the International Telecommunications Union Convention rules were modified to give the same privileges at Plenipotentiary Conferences as IARU already had at Radio Conferences.

President Price says that the real news was the special station, CN8UIT set up at the conference center in Marrakech. He says that this was a follow on from a similar station set up by the ARRL in Minneapolis and one eight years ago in Kyoto, Japan from the JARL.

Buy the way, the CN8UIT call is based on the French pronunciation of the International Telecommunications Union.   For those of you unaware, the International Amateur Radio Union was founded in 1925 specifically to represent our service at international conferences. It has done so -- with great success -- ever since.

With a thank-you to IARU President Larry Price, W4RA, for that neat note, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.
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In his note to us President Price says that the IARU has taken part in every major conference in modern years. Also that it will be there for all of us at WRC 2003 in Geneva Switzerland. (ARNewsline™)

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INTERNATIONAL: ARRL ASKS FCC TO DENY US USE OF EUROPEAN/UK FRS-TYPE RADIOS ON 70 cm

The ARRL is saying no to visitors using unlicensed radios in our ham bands. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has more:

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The ARRL has asked the FCC to deny a petition that would set aside spectrum in the 70-cm ham band for non ham use. This, for use by visitors from Europe and the United Kingdom to use their Personal Mobile Radio transceivers while in the U-S.

According to the ARRL Letter, the request was filed by Dr. Michael Trahos, KB4PGC of Alexandria Virginia. It asks that European PMR 446 type handie-talkies be allowed to operate license free while overseas travelers were in United States jurisdiction. PMR 446 hand-helds are similar to the US Family Radio Service transceivers but operate on eight channels between 446.0 and 446 .1 MHz. at up to a half watt out.

In his Petition, Trahos said that existing Part 97 Amateur Service rules precluding the use of PMR 446 radios in the US were essentially unenforceable and that granting his petition would have minimal impact on existing amateur operations. The ARRL countered by saying that there are obvious enforcement problems associated with the Petition. It says that putting the unlicensed users on a ham band is a formula for serious interference problems to be created.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Im Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.
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As an alternative, the ARRL recommends that European and UK visitors simply purchase inexpensive FRS transceivers to use during visits to the United States. (ARRL)

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Break 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N5IUF repeater serving the Lone Star State from Dallas Texas.

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO LAW: FCC REJECTS AMATEUR'S PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION ON CC&R ISSUE

The FCC has turned down a Petition for Reconsideration filed by a Florida amateur. This, of the Commission's 2001 decision to deny the ARRL's Application for Review in RM-8763. That proceeding concerned the League's effort to have the Commission include privately imposed deed restrictions under PRB-1.

The ARRL says that the FCC dismissed its Application for Review last December 18th. At that time the FCC noted that PRB-1 more than adequately protects federal interest in promoting amateur communications from overly restrictive regulations.

Not long after, W. Lee McVey, W6EM, of Bradenton, Florida, filed his own Petition for Reconsideration Mc Vey claimed that it presented additional evidence that the FCC had not considered in dealing with the ARRL's petition.

But the FCC disagreed. It says that McVey offered up no new evidence in the matter and has turned his petition away. (ARRL)

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ENFORCEMENT: INDONESIA PIRATE UPDATE

An update now to our recent story on the problems being caused by pirate stations in Indonesia. Not only are they making life difficult for hams around the world. The pirates are also playing havoc with domestic Indonesian ham radio communications as well. With more, heres Q-News Graham Kemp, VK4BB:

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Many reports covering Indonesian non amateurs using our frequencies in the 40, 20 and 10 metre bands are making their way to the IARUMS. There seems absolutely no control over their working and existence by the local Government.

It is very difficult for licensed Indonesian amateurs to find a clear frequency in the lower edges of 40mb for their authorised cmmunications. Generally the licensed Indonesians are around 7050,7055 and 7060 kHz for their traffic. 7050 kHz frequency, carries CW lessons for the intending future amateurs. Otherwise, the licensed ones, operate in their own nets and you can clearly identify their call signs in between, as per standard practice, though the entire conversations are in Indonesian.

Another frequency regularly used by a SE Asian group for two-way non amateur communications is 14044 J3Eu mode around 0100 UTC every day. IARUMS need the services of those knowing SE Asian languages to identify them, they may be from XV, 3W or XU area.
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If you are a resident of South-East Asia and heating this newscast, you are requested to watch 14.044 MHz and help identify the unlicensed users. Please send that information to your nations Intruder Watch Coordinator as fast as you can. (Q-News)

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ENFORCEMENT: PIRATE BOARDCASTING IN SAN DIEGO CA

Back here in the U-S-A, Bob Gonsett’s CGC Communicator reports on an entity calling itself Free Radio San Diego which announced plans to begin broadcasting on on 96.9 MHz.. The transmitter location and parameters are unknown but one person reports being in the town of Carlsbad California and seeing a spray-painted stenciled sign on the concrete walkway promoting Free Radio 96.9. Also, the operator of the station does have a web site at www.pirate969.org What action the FCC may be planning on this one is unknown. (CGC Communicator)

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ENFORCEMENT: BE CAREFUL ON 146.52

The has FCC issued and then retracted advisory notices to five Mid-West hams telling them that they were talking to long. This, on the national calling

frequency of 146.52 MHz.

The letters said -- and we quote: “The frequency 146.52 MHz is customarily used, and is called for under the band plan, as a simplex calling frequency for Two Meter operation. Numerous communications from your station during the above dates have lasted from nearly half an hour to an hour. While band plans are not mandatory under the Commission’s rules, the Commission depends upon them to minimize the situations in which Commission intervention is required, and they comport with good Amateur practice under our rules. Please review Section 97.101 of the Commission’s rules” -- end quote.

The FCC origionally said that the October 16th letters went out following a review of complaints about the operation of their Amateur stations between September 19th and October 6th. The retraction was issued on Wednesday October 23rd. No reason was given for the withdrawal. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC JUDGE FAVORS SCHOENBOHM'S RETURN TO AMATEUR RADIO

The ARRL reports that an FCC Administrative Law Judge believes the regulatory agency should permit Herbert L. Sahoenbohm to once again hold an Amateur service license. In rendering his decision, Judge Arthur I. Steinberg says that he believes Schoenbohm now appears to hold the requisite character qualifications to be a Commission licensee.

The FCC had designated Schoenbohm's license renewal application for a public hearing. This based on character issues stemming from a 1992 conviction and alleged lack of candor during subsequent FCC hearings on the matter. The former KV4FZ lost his bid to renew his ham ticket in 2000. He applied for a new license in 2001 which lead to the recent recommendation by Judge Steinberg. A final decision on whether or not to re-license Schoenbohm now must be made by the FCC itself. Schoenbohm has also passed an Extra class exam that is also pending. (ARRL, FCC)

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THE INTERNET: DENIAL OF SERVICE ATTACK THWARTED

What investigators are calling a sophisticated and large-scale assault against the World Wide Web has been thwarted . But not before nine of the thirteen servers that manage global Internet traffic were crippled for a short time on Monday October 21st.

The FBI's National Infrastructure Protection Center said that it was aware of the denial of service attack and is addressing this matter. Service was quickly restored after managers put defensive measure in place bringing the attack to a halt. Most Internet users did not even notice the hour long attack whose origin is still not known. (WebNews)

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ON THE WEB: TECH NOTES GOES HIGH TECH

You have hears us credit it here on Amateur Radio Newsline. Now, Larry Bloomfield's broadcast industry publication Tech-Notes is available on the

World Wide Web in a new easy-to-read format. Larry has adopted HTML scripting which permits him to publish pictures, logos and diagrams. And you will always have lots about digital and high definition television and much more. You can check it out on-line at www.Tech-Notes.TV. (Tech-Notes, CGC)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: PAUL BLUMHARDT, K5RT, JOINS CQ STAFF

Paul Blumhardt, K5RT, has joined the staff of CQ Communications, Inc. as Director of New Business Development. Blumhardt, of Rowlett, Texas, will oversee efforts to broaden the base and the scope of the company's marketing activities.

According to publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, Blumhardt has actually been part of the CQ "family" for the past three years, serving in a volunteer capacity as Worked All Zones Award Manager. Blunhardt holds an Extra Class amateur license, a commercial FCC General Radio Operator License and degrees in both engineering and business. Among his personal operating achievements are 5-Band Worked All Zones, 5-Band DXCC, 6-Band Worked All States, and #1 DXCC Honor Roll.

As all of you are aware, CQ Communicatoins publishes magazines, books, videos and other materials for the amateur radio and hobby radio fields. They are also a co-corporate underwriter of the annual Young Ham of he Year Award. (CQ)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org.

(5 sec pause)

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THE WAR ON TERROR: A BANNER AND A LINK

Pieter Wycoff, KG4UPX, says over the Internet that he has found an important tool that every concerned ham should have on his or her personal website. Wycoff says that the Homeland Security Knowledge Database has a banner that can be posted to any website notifying visitors of the current status of alert to terrorist threats.

The site also contains lots of other information relevant to homeland security and how you can play a part. You can even sign up to receive threat notification updates by e-mail. To learn more on how you can add this feature to your ham radio website, take your web browser to http://www.twotigersonline.com/resources.html.

And for those not aware, right now the nation is under color code Yellow which indicates an elevated level of alert. (Via Internet)

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CONVENTIONS/HAMFESTS/CONFERENCES: AMSAT IN FT. WORTH IN NOVEMBER

The 20th annual AMSAT Symposium will be held November 8th to the 10th in Fort Worth, TX. The gathering actually kicks off with an Early Arrival Activity on November 7th and ends with the conclusion of the Board of Director's Meeting on the 11th. More information is in cyberspace www.amsat.org. (ANS)

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SATELLITE NEWS: FCC DECLINES TO APPROVE ECHOSTAR-DIRECTV MERGER

The FCC has declined to approve the transfer of licenses from EchoStar Communications Corporation and the Hughes Electronics Corp. subsidiary DirecTV to form a new business entity. The FCC said that the companies did not demonstrated that approval of the transaction will serve the public interest,convenience, and necessity. The complete story is on the web at www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2002/db1010/DOC-227263A1.doc (CGC)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SOYUZ ACCIDENT SOLVED

A Russian state commission has set October 30th as the launch date for a Soyuz rocket carrying a three-person crew to the International Space Station. The decision was made after investigators determined that it was a probably a production glitch rather than faulty design which led to the October 15th crash of a similar launch vehicle.

For a while, it appeared that ham radio operations and everything else on the International Space Station might come to a grinding halt. Russia had threatened to suspend resupply launces following the mishap with the unmanned Soyuz ship which exploded seconds after liftoff, killing one person on the ground and injuring 20 others.

Such a delay would have had a devastating effect of future habitation of the space station. This is because the current emergency evacuation lifeboat vehicle is fast approaching the date on which it must be replaced. Only a Soyuz launcher can carry the replacement lifeboat to the ISS. If the Soyuz launchers had been kept on the ground, operations on the ISS might have been suspended. Thankfully, that wont be the case. (Published news reports)

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INTERNATIONAL - RUSSIA: HELP LETTER MAY BE PHONY

A electronic letter purportedly from a Russian ham asking for financial assistance may be a phony. Then again, maybe not.

The letter showed up in hams mail boxes and on the numerous Internet news groups beginning on October 18th. Signed by a person calling himself Valentin, the note asks for donations of money and other gear. What has made many suspicious is that the writer never gives his call sign and does not use any ham radio terminology.

A number of people believe that the letter was actually sent by a spam-mail

generating company or someone with a program that harvests e-mail addresses from the World Wide Web and generates automatic e-mail to them. There is even some speculation that the message did not come from Russia as the note itself claims.

Then comes a posting to the QCWA remailer from Lee Manning AK7T. Manning says that he e-mailed the writer of the message. Valentin replied that his callsign is RA3XAA. According to international call sign listings, RA3XAA belongs to Valentin Mikhaylin in Kaluga Russia. We have e-mailed him and are waiting to find out if he is the person who issued the letter and how he was able to get so many e-mail addresses of United States hams.

Meantime you might want to keep in mind two words. Caviat Emptor. Buyer -- or in this case -- giver beware. (QCWA Remailer, others)

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INTERNATIONAL - THE NETHERLANDS: AUCTIONS NOT MANDATORY

Media Network says that a judge in Rotterdam has ruled that the next Dutch government will not be required to auction the commercial radio frequencies to the highest bidders. The ruling on Friday October 11th will impact on future spectrum auctions in that nation. (Media Network)

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DX

In DX, GB2EVR is a new permanent special event operation for the Eden Valley Railway in the U-K. The station is located at the Warcop railway station, six miles east of Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria. (GB2RS)

Also, JA2ZL will be active as F0/JA2ZL from Morea Island in French Polynesia from the 30th of October to 2nd of November. He plans to operate on 40 to 10 meters mainly SSB, with some CW and RTTY. (GB2RS)

And a milliwatt Beacon is on the air on 11 meters from Northern California. AOH is at the top of a very high mountain and operates under FCC rules part 15. This is the same as child walkie-talkie and can be heard on 27.125 MHz. The Beacon is on the air trying to make a point you don't need 20 kilowatts to DX. If you hear it, QSL to aoh@ computermail.net (APC News)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: INNOVATION IN AMATEUR RADIO REWARDED

And finally this week, a big honor for a deserving ham. Amateur Radio Newsline’s Don Wilbanks, KC5MFA, has the details:

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Brad Phillips ZS5BP has been rewarded for his innovation in Amateur Radio. This by being named to receive the South African Radio Amateur of the Year Award.

Phillips received the honor for his work in introducing the Internet Repeater

Linking Project – or IRLP to that nation. South Africa Radio League President Sid Tyler congratulated Phillips on his achievements saying that IRLP is as much part of amateur radio as is HF.

But that’s not all. The award itself says that IRLP offers new opportunities for the development of the amateur radio service in South Africa. This is because it brings amateur radio within the reach of young people in schools and the older generation who, after retirement, often do not have access to High Frequency stations or other ham gear of their own. Phillips work brings ham radio to both.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I’m Don Wilbanks, KC5MFA.

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The South African Radio Amateur of the Year Award is sponsored by Siemens. Its given annually by the South African Amateur Radio Development Trust to a ham radio operator who has made a major contribution to the Amateur service. (SARL)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, Amateur News Weekly, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB and Australia's Q-News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline™. Our e-mail address is newsline @arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's™ only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline™, P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, Mert Garlick, N6AWE, saying 73 and we thank you for listening. Amateur Radio Newsline™ is Copyright 2002. All rights reserved.